



Applicant : Daniel R. Kiselik
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seller in a particular transaction in order for the seller to sell to a particular buyer;

entering into the computer system a request for a quote by a buyer identified as a system-qualified buyer, the request for a quote including a schedule of requirements established by the system-qualified buyer;

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comparing in the computer system the schedule of requirements with the vendor criteria of the second predetermined composite of criteria to establish a selected group of system-qualified sellers able to meet the schedule of requirements;

comparing in the computer system the vending criteria of each seller of the selected group of system-qualified sellers with the first predetermined composite of criteria to establish a sub-group of sellers willing to sell to the system-qualified buyer entering the request for a quote;

outputting from the computer system the request for a quote for submission to the sub-group of system-qualified sellers for timely responses by sellers of the sub-group of system-qualified sellers;

inputting into the computer system timely responses by responding sellers of the sub-group of system-qualified sellers,

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each timely response including a price required by a corresponding responding seller, and outputting from the computer system the timely responses inputted by the responding sellers for selection by the buyer of a response from among those timely responses inputted by responding sellers;

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inputting into the computer system a buyer selected response and outputting from the computer system the buyer selected response to notify the seller corresponding to the selected response of the selection of the selected response by the buyer; and

outputting from the computer system to the buyer the identity of the seller and outputting from the computer system to the seller the identity of the buyer for completion of the transaction.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the request for a quote includes a schedule of intangible requirements, and the method includes comparing in the computer system the intangible requirements with the second predetermined composite of criteria to include in the selected group of system-qualified sellers only those sellers able to meet the intangible requirements.

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17. The method of claim 15 wherein the responses of sellers outputted to buyers is limited in number to a predetermined number based upon lowest prices.

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18. The method of claim 15 wherein the schedule of requirements in the request for a quote includes a price which the system-qualified buyer is willing to pay and a preset deviation from the price, and the method includes, subsequent to outputting from the computer system the responses of the responding sellers, the selective inputting into the computer system of a modified request for a quote including an expansion of the deviation for submission of the modified request for a quote to the sub-group of system-qualified sellers.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the schedule of requirements in the request for a quote includes a desired delivery schedule and the modified request for a quote includes a modified delivery schedule.

20. The method of claim 15 including inputting into the computer system, subsequent to completion of the transaction, a

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rating by the buyer of the performance of the seller, and including the rating in the vendor criteria of the second predetermined composite of criteria.

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21. The method of claim 15 including inputting into the computer system, subsequent to completion of the transaction, a rating by the seller of the performance of the buyer, and including the rating in the first predetermined composite of criteria.

22. The method of claim 15 including storing in the computer system proprietary items pertaining to the goods or services to be purchased by the system-qualified buyer, and subsequent to outputting from the computer system to the buyer the identity of the seller and outputting from the computer system to the seller the identity of the buyer, outputting the proprietary items to the selected seller.

23. A computer system operated for the automatic selection of parties to a transaction between a system-qualified buyer of goods or services and a system-qualified seller of goods or services, the computer system comprising:

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an inputting device for:

inputting into the computer system a first predetermined composite of criteria representing each buyer qualified to enter the computer system as a system-qualified buyer;

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inputting into the computer system a second predetermined composite of criteria representing each seller qualified to serve as a system-qualified seller in the computer system, the second predetermined composite of criteria including vendor criteria pertaining to the ability of the seller to deliver goods or services, and vendee criteria pertaining to requirements of the seller in a buyer in order for the seller to sell to a particular buyer; and

entering into the computer system a request for a quote by a buyer identified as a system-qualified buyer, the request for a quote including a schedule of requirements established by the system-qualified buyer;

such that the computer system compares:

the schedule of requirements with the vendor criteria of the second predetermined composite of criteria to establish a selected group of system-qualified sellers able to meet the schedule of requirements; and

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the first predetermined composite of criteria with the vendee criteria of each seller of the selected group of system-qualified sellers to establish a sub-group of sellers willing to sell to the system-qualified buyer entering the request for a quote; and

an outputting device for:

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outputting from the computer system the request for a quote for submission to the sub-group of system-qualified sellers for timely responses by sellers of the sub-group of system-qualified sellers;

the inputting device further being operative for:

inputting into the computer system timely responses by responding sellers of the sub-group of system-qualified sellers, each timely response including a price required by a corresponding responding seller, and outputting from the computer system the timely responses inputted by the responding sellers for selection by the buyer of a response from among those timely responses inputted by responding sellers; and

inputting into the computer system a buyer selected response and outputting from the computer system the buyer selected response to notify the seller corresponding to the selected response of the selection of the selected response by the buyer; and

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the outputting device further being operative for:

outputting from the computer to the buyer the identity of the seller and outputting from the computer to the seller the identity of the buyer for completion of the transaction.

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24. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the request for a quote includes a schedule of intangible requirements, and the inputting device is further operative for comparing the intangible requirements with the second predetermined composite of criteria so as to include in the selected group of system-qualified sellers only those sellers able to meet the intangible requirements.

25. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the outputting device is further operative for limiting in number the responses of sellers outputted to buyers to a predetermined number based upon lowest prices.

26. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the schedule of requirements in the request for a quote includes a price which the system-qualified buyer is willing to pay and a preset deviation from the price and, subsequent to outputting from the computer

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system the responses of the responding sellers, the inputting device further being operative for the selective inputting into the computer system of a modified request for a quote including an expansion of the deviation for submission of the modified request for a quote to the sub-group of system-qualified sellers.

27. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the schedule of requirements in the request for a quote includes a desired delivery schedule and the modified request for a quote inputted into the computer system by the inputting device includes a modified delivery schedule.

28. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the inputting device is further operative for inputting into the computer system, subsequent to completion of the transaction, a rating by the buyer of the performance of the seller, and including the rating in the vendor criteria of the second predetermined composite of criteria.

29. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the inputting device is further operative for inputting into the computer system, subsequent to completion of the transaction, a rating by the seller

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of the performance of the buyer, and including the rating in the first predetermined composite of criteria.

30. The computer system of claim 23 including a data storage device for storing in the computer system proprietary items pertaining to the goods or services to be purchased by the system-qualified buyer, the outputting device being further operative for outputting the proprietary items to the selected seller, subsequent to outputting from the computer system to the buyer the identity of the seller and outputting from the computer system to the seller the identity of the buyer.

31. An improvement in a method of operating a computer system for the automatic selection of parties to a transaction to be completed between a system-qualified buyer of goods or services and a system-qualified seller of goods or services, wherein a first predetermined composite of criteria representing each buyer qualified to enter the computer system as a system-qualified buyer is inputted into the computer system and a second predetermined composite of criteria representing each seller qualified to serve as a system-qualified seller in the computer system is inputted

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into the computer system, the second predetermined composite of criteria including vendor criteria pertaining to the ability of the seller to deliver goods or services, and vending criteria pertaining to requirements of the seller in a particular transaction in order for the seller to sell to a particular buyer, the improvement comprising: inputting into the computer system, subsequent to completion of the transaction, a rating by the buyer of the performance of the seller, and including the rating in the vendor criteria of the second predetermined composite of criteria.

32. An improvement in a method of operating a computer system for the automatic selection of parties to a transaction to be completed between a system-qualified buyer of goods or services and a system-qualified seller of goods or services, wherein a first predetermined composite of criteria representing each buyer qualified to enter the computer system as a system-qualified buyer is inputted into the computer system and a second predetermined composite of criteria representing each seller qualified to serve as a system-qualified seller in the computer system is inputted into the computer system, the improvement comprising: inputting into the computer system, subsequent to completion of the

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transaction, a rating by the seller of the performance of the buyer, and including the rating in the first predetermined composite of criteria.

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33. In a computer system operated for the automatic selection of parties to a transaction to be completed between a system-qualified buyer of goods or services and a system-qualified seller of goods or services, wherein an inputting device is operative for inputting into the computer system a first predetermined composite of criteria representing each buyer qualified to enter the computer system as a system-qualified buyer and a second predetermined composite of criteria representing each seller qualified to serve as a system-qualified seller in the computer system, the second predetermined composite of criteria including vendor criteria pertaining to the ability of the seller to deliver goods or services, and vending criteria pertaining to requirements of the seller in a particular transaction in order for the seller to sell to a particular buyer, the improvement wherein: the inputting device is further operative for inputting into the computer system, subsequent to completion of the transaction, a rating by the buyer